

**PROCESSING OF MOTION VECTOR HISTOGRAMS FOR RECOGNIZING  
THE INTERLEAVED OR PROGRESSIVE CHARACTER OF PICTURES**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A method of processing a bitstream of coded data of video sequences of progressive or interlaced pictures includes estimating motion vectors of groups of pixels. These groups of pixels belong to a top half-frame of the current picture in relation to pixels belonging to a bottom half-frame of a preceding picture. Motion vectors are also estimated for group of pixels of a bottom half-frame of the current picture in relation to pixels belonging to the top half-frame of the current picture. The processing calculates for each macroblock of a top half-frame and a bottom half-frame a respective top motion coefficient and a bottom motion coefficient depending on the estimation of the motion vectors of the top half-frame and the bottom half-frame. The current picture is recognized as an interlaced picture by a substantial equality of the distributions of values of the motion coefficients, or as a progressive picture by a substantial inequality of the distributions of values of the motion coefficients.